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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**DHL EXPRESS 552 6567 745**

Applicant: Karl Knieper  
Serial No: 10/710,896  
U.S. Filed: 8/11/2004  
For: Convertible Vehicle

**Commissioner for Patents**

**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

#### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56, Applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the reference(s) cited on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents (except U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications) are attached.

These references have been cited in a German office action in the counterpart German patent application.

Reference 1) discloses a device for separating a trunk space 6 from a storage space for a top 2, comprised of parts 3 and 4, of a convertible. As shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, the device is comprised of two elements 11, 12 that are connected by a hinge (13; Fig. 4) to one another. The element 11 is attached to the vehicle frame by a pivot device (15; Fig. 4) so that it can be moved from a horizontal position (Fig. 1 and Fig. 3) into a vertical position (Fig. 2). In the position illustrated in Figs. 1 and 3, the elements 11, 12 provide

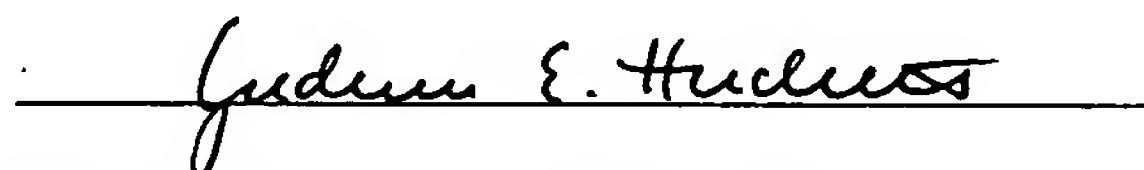
space 5 for receiving the top (shown in the folded-down position in Fig. 3). In the position shown in Fig. 2, the elements 11, 12 are moved into a position for increasing the trunk space 6.

Reference 2) discloses a partition 6 between a storage space 3 for the top 2 of the convertible and a trunk space 4. Fig. 1 shows the partition in an upright position, with the top 2 stowed in the storage space 3 and luggage in the trunk 4. The partition 6 contacts a switch 8 that sends a signal to a release device of the top 2 only when contacted by the partition 6 so that the top can be stowed only when the partition 6 is upright. Fig. 2 indicates by the arrow that the partition 6 can be folded forward when the top 2 is up. Fig. 3 shows the partition 6 in the folded down position so that the trunk is enlarged. Fig. 4 shows the rear seats folded forward so that the trunk space is enlarged even more.

It is respectfully requested that any fees required and not enclosed herewith or any shortages in any fees be charged to Deposit Account 50-1199.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

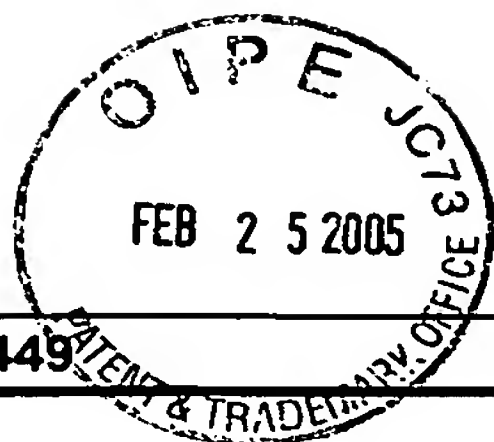
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Enclosures: ☒ PTO 1449  
☒ reference(s)  
☐ search report (incl. translation)  
☐ fee



PTO 1449		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>  <b>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>	<b>Application Number</b>	10/710,896	
	<b>Filing Date</b>	8/11/2004	
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Karl Knieper	
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>		
Date submitted: 1/14/05		<b>Examiner Name</b>	
Sheet 1 of 1		<b>Attorney Docket No.</b>	104075.K

U. S. PATENTS OR PUBLISHED PATENT APPLICATIONS							
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Patent or Publication Number	Issue or Publication Date	Patentee or Inventor	Class	Subclass	Filing Date

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document No.	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
	1	101 31 886	1/23/2003	Germany				X
	2	43 30 411	10/27/1994	Germany				X

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS		
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Name of Author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), Title of Article, Title of Item (Book, Journal, etc.), Date, Page(s), Volume or Issue No., Publisher, City and/or Country Where Published

<b>Examiner Signature</b>		<b>Date Considered</b>	
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